

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.111
U.S. Application No.: 09/832,822

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (currently amended): A method for producing an intermediate product made of a fiber-reinforced composite composed of a reinforcing fiber impregnated with a thermosetting resin, comprising: (a) a first-step where a plurality of sheets made of said fiber-reinforced composite are laminated to each other, heated under a pressure by a hot press roll, and cooled under a pressure by a cold press roll to provide automatically a flat board-shaped laminate; (b) a second step where said flat board-shaped laminate is cut into a board; and (c) a third step where said board is softened by heating, placed on a forming tool, and formed by cooling under a pressure, wherein in said first step (a) said plurality of sheets made of said fiber-reinforced composite are heated at a temperature of 20-100°C under 0.1 to 10 kg/cm², and cooled at a temperature of 10-30°C under 0.1 to 10 kg/cm² so as to avoid the generation of disordered fiber orientation of the fiber-reinforced composite and the formation of insufficient stacking of the flat board-shaped laminate; and in said third step (c) said board is softened by heating at a temperature of 60-100°C for 10-90 minutes placed on a forming tool, and formed by cooling at a temperature of 0-50°C under a pressure of 0.1-10 kg/cm² so as to avoid the generation of disordered fiber orientation of the fiber-reinforced composite and the occurrence of insufficient forming of said intermediate product and wherein said intermediate product is a semi-hardened

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product having a hardening degree of 1 to 80%, said fiber-reinforced composite being composed of a reinforcing fiber impregnated with a thermosetting resin.

Claims 2-3. (canceled).

4. (currently amended): A method for producing an intermediate product made of a fiber-reinforced composite composed of a reinforcing fiber impregnated with a thermosetting resin, comprising:

a) a first step where a plurality of sheets made of said fiber-reinforced composite are laminated to each other, heated under a pressure by a hot press roll, and cooled under a pressure by a cold press roll to provide automatically a flat board-shaped laminate; (b) a second step where said flat board-shaped laminate is cut into a board; and (c) a third step where said board is softened by heating, placed on a forming tool, and formed by cooling under a pressure, wherein in said first step (a) said plurality of sheets made of said fiber-reinforced composite are heated at a temperature of 20-100°C under 0.1 to 10 kg/cm² and cooled at a temperature of 10-30°C under 0.1 to 10 kg/cm² so as to avoid the generation of disordered fiber orientation of the fiber-reinforced composite and the formation of insufficient stacking of the flat board-shaped laminate; and in said third step (c) said board is softened by heating at a temperature of 60-100°C for 10-90 minutes placed on a forming tool, and formed by cooling at a temperature of 0-50°C under a pressure of 0.1-10 kg/cm² so as to avoid the generation of disordered fiber orientation of the fiber-reinforced composite and the occurrence of insufficient forming of said intermediate product, wherein said intermediate product is a T-shaped intermediate product composed of L-shaped board laminates and said flat board-shaped laminate, said L-shaped board laminates and

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said flat board-shaped laminate being derived from only one flat board-shaped laminate by cutting into a plurality of boards, and wherein said intermediate product is a semi-hardened product having a hardening degree of 1 to 50%.

Claims 5-6. (canceled).

7. (currently amended): A method ~~according to claim 5,~~ for producing an intermediate product made of a fiber-reinforced composite composed of a reinforcing fiber impregnated with a thermosetting resin ~~comprising~~:

~~(a) a first step where a plurality of sheets made of said fiber reinforced composite are laminated to each other, heated under a pressure by a hot press roll, and cooled under a pressure by a cold press roll to provide automatically a flat board shaped laminate; (b) a second step where said flat board shaped laminate is cut into a board; and (c) a third step where said board is softened by heating, placed on a forming tool, and formed by cooling under a pressure, wherein in said first step (a) said plurality of sheets made of said fiber reinforced composite are heated at a temperature of 20-100°C under 0.1 to 10 kg/cm², and cooled at a temperature of 10-30°C under 0.1 to 10 kg/cm²; and in said third step (c) said board is softened by heating at a temperature of 60-100°C for 10-90 minutes placed on a forming tool, and formed by cooling at a temperature of 0-50°C under a pressure of 0.1-10 kg/cm², wherein said intermediate product is a T-shaped intermediate product composed of L-shaped board laminates and said flat board shaped laminate, said L-shaped board laminates and said flat board shaped laminate being derived from only one flat board shaped laminate by cutting into a plurality of boards, wherein said intermediate product is a semi-hardened product having a hardening degree of 1 to 50%, and according to~~

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claim 4, wherein said intermediate product is a semi-hardened product having a hardening degree of 5 to 20%.